**READING #1 DISCUSSION SHEET**

Use the following questions to guide your reading of the first section of *Night*; jot some notes down on a piece of paper while you read in preparation for an in-class discussion on these questions. Use the bullet point questions to help you think about the bold statement. Your notes will be checked for completion at the beginning of our next class.

**Explore the factors that shape Eliezer’s identity.**

* How does Eliezer describe himself?
* What is his family like? To whom in his family does he seem most attached? With whom would he like to be closer?
* What role does Moshe the Beadle play in Eliezer’s life?
* How important is religion to the way Eliezer defines his identity?

**Consider why no one believed Moshe the Beadle.**

* How does Eliezer view Moshe at the beginning of the book? How do others in Sighet regard him?
* Why were Moshe and other foreign Jews expelled from Sighet? How do other Jews in the community respond to the deportation of foreign Jews?
* What did Moshe witness when he was shipped to Poland? Why does he want the Jews of Sighet to know what he saw?
* Why is it so important to Moshe that he be believed?
* Was Moshe a madman as some people claim? What does that label seem to mean in Sighet? What does the word mean to you?

**Explore the relationship between Sighet and the outside world between 1941 and 1944.**

* What do the Jews of Sighet know about the outside world in 1941? How do they respond to what they know?
* Why do you think they refuse to believe Moshe when he returns to Sighet?
* Do you think people really believe that Moshe is lying to them? What is the difference between saying that someone is lying and saying that you cannot believe what he or she is saying?
* What kinds of stories do you find it easiest to believe? What kinds of stories do you find it hardest to accept as true? What are the main differences between the stories you believe without question and those you doubt?
* What do the Jews of Sighet know about the outside world by the spring of 1944? How do you account for the way they respond to the stories they hear by word of mouth? Over the radio? Have you or someone you know ever responded to news in similar ways?
* How do the Jews of Sighet react to the arrival of the Germans? The creation of the ghettos? Their own deportation? How do you account for these responses?

**Discuss the way the author tells his story.**

* Why do you think Elie Wiesel begins *Night* with the story of Moshe the Beatle?
* What lessons does the narrator seem to learn from Moshe’s experiences in telling his own story?
* Why do you think Elie Wiesel tells his story in the first person perspective? If *Night* were written in the third person, would it be more or less believable?